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RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/26/2019  
TAGS: PREL ELAB KPAL EAID KWBG QA  
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN AMBASSADOR DESCRIBES QATAR'S SPECIAL  
PA CONTRIBUTIONS DECEMBER 2006 - APRIL 2007

Classified By: Ambassador Joseph E. LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b and d)

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(C) KEY POINTS  
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-- In a February 25th meeting with Ambassador, Palestinian Ambassador Ghannam said Qatar made five special payments of \$22 million each to the Palestinian Authority from December 2006 through April 2007.

-- Gannam said these payments were pursuant to a personal pledge made by the Amir to then Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyah for the purpose of ending a teachers strike.

-- When the Palestinian unity government broke down in May 2007, Qatar withheld the sixth and final payment.

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(C) COMMENTS  
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-- Ambassador Gannam's information about the monthly payments is quite consistent with what Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim told Special Envoy Mitchell in their recent phone call. HBJ said Qatar had donated \$140 million in 2007 through Abu Mazen, about \$22 million a month for six months, and that this money went towards salaries for medical and educational staff.

End Key Points and Comments.

¶1. (C) Palestinian Ambassador Ghannam told Ambassador February 25th that in December 2006, while visiting Doha for the Asian Games, then-Palestinian PM Ismail Haniyah personally asked Qatari Amir Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani for financial help in resolving a dispute with striking teachers.

¶2. (C) Haniyah viewed the strike as a threat aimed at his government by the Fatah-dominated teachers union. In response to Haniyah's request, the Amir pledged to make six monthly payments of \$22 million each.

¶3. (C) Ambassador Ghannam stated that Qatar made its first payment in December 2006. It paid the money to the Arab League, which then forwarded the funds to the Palestinian Presidency. The money was then directed to the Ministry of Finance for the payment of teachers' salaries.

¶4. (C) Five payments were made, the last in April 2007. When Hamas expelled the PA from Gaza the following month, Qatar withheld the final payment.  
LeBaron